(d) Since the percentage of transhipment cargo being handled is only about 5% of the total containerised cargo handled at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, the revenue generated on account of transhipment is marginal.

Transportation of LNG

2979. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Liquefied Natural Gas transported by Indian Shipping Industry, Quantity-wise and value-wise;

(b) whether the Indian Shipping Industry get appropriate fiscal incentives and adequate technology transfer for transportation of LNG; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Indian Shipping Company has so far transported Liquefied Natural Gas.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

VRS in MBPT

2980. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 6000 employees have taken VRS in MBPT;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether MBPT cannot compete with JNPT;

(d) whether it is also a fact that MBPT is going to sell 26 of its plots which measure 100 and 600 square metres; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Voluntary Retirement scheme was introduced in Mumbai Port Trust between 28.2.2001 and 30.6.2001. The primary reason for introduction of VRS was to reduce manpower which is surplus and reduce costs, especially in the

face of declining traffic and increasing financial deficit.

(c) Mumbai Port being very old port is not favourably placed to compete with JNPT in handling containers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Cars by Mumbai Port Trust

2981. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mumbai Port Trust is smuggling cars through illegal way and selling them in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that such illegal transported cars have been confiscated at Mumbai; and

(c) if so, the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Mumbai Port Trust is not involved in smuggling of cars. However, instances have come to light that imported cars parked in the premises of Mumbai Port have been stolen replacing them with old cars and sold in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some of the stolen cars have been recovered and kept in their custody by Mumbai Police.

(c) The matter is being invested by the Mumbai Police. Vigil and security have been increased in and around the warehouses where containers containing imported cars are stored.

Port Connectivity Project

2982. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a huge Port-Connectivity Project for connecting all major ports in the country to the nearest National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the total money sanctioned for the project;